

Amendment and Response

Page 7 of 8

Serial No.: 10/568,522

Confirmation No.: 2954

Filed: 15 February 2006

For: PRESSURE-SENSITIVE ADHESIVE TAPE AND PRESSURE-SENSITIVE ADHESIVE COMPOSITION
FOR MEDICAL ADHESIVE TAPE

Remarks

The Office Action mailed 8 October 2008 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1, 12, and 13 having been amended, claims 7, 8, and 17 having been cancelled, without prejudice, the pending claims are claims 1-6, 8-16, and 18-20. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 12, and 13 regarding the antioxidant can be found throughout the specification, e.g., page 13, lines 7-27. Also, claims 1, 12, and 13 have been amended to clarify that a ultraviolet initiator is present in the precursor. Thus, the phrase "less than 1.5% by weight" does not include "zero."

The amendment to the specification is supported by originally filed U.S. claim 9 (JP Claim 10).

The 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection/35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Takanobu (JP 2002-060456). Claims 1, 12, and 13 having been amended, this rejection is rendered moot; insofar as it may apply to the presently pending claims it is traversed.

Takanobu discloses a urethane oligomer that is used as a curative component for a pressure-sensitive adhesive that does not include an organic solvent and has low skin irritation properties; however, when an ultraviolet initiator is present, it is present in an amount of 1.5% by weight (Ex. 3). As Applicant indicates at page 12, line 27 through page 13, line 5, when an ultraviolet initiator is present in an amount of 1.5% by weight or more, photodecomposition of the recited adhesive composition occurs. There is no teaching or suggestion in Takanobu that when an ultraviolet initiator is present this problem occurs and of a method to solve this problem (i.e., that the amount of ultraviolet initiator should be kept below 1.5% by weight when it is present in the recited adhesive composition). Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion that the use of an antioxidant, particularly, a hindered phenol-based antioxidant, in an amount of

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0.03 to 1%, can assist in reducing the amount of deterioration of the recited adhesive composition "even upon exposure to light of a fluorescent lamp for a long period" (see, e.g., Applicant's specification at page 13, lines 10-15). Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Summary

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Representatives at the telephone number listed below if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted

By

Muetting, Raasch & Gebhardt, P.A.

P.O. Box 581336

Minneapolis, MN 55458-1336

Phone: (612) 305-1220

Facsimile: (612) 305-1228

Feb. 6, 2009

Date

By:

Ann M. Muetting

Reg. No. 33,977

Direct Dial (612) 305-1217

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 6th day of February, 2009, at 8:46am (Central Time).

By:

Gale E. Wigan

Name:

Gale E. Wigan